

Nothing could ever compare to the wonderful gift I received on May 8, 2003, my twelfth birthday. I had asked for many things, but nothing compared to the great surprise laying beside me in my bed that morning. It was a kitten! Why is it so special? Well, at that age I loved surprises. Also, the kitten was so sweet and friendly. But most of all, I had horrible anxiety attacks and it was great to know that someone was always there.

Do you know that feeling when you aren't expecting something to happen and it does? That's the feeling I had. I remember my whole family entering the room quietly and then they sang happy birthday, I woke up, and there it was. That was such a wonderful feeling. It didn't matter anymore if I got what else I asked for, because that surprise was enough.

At first, the kitten was a little fiesty and hiper, but he was just a baby. I took him to his knew home, in my room, and he calmed down after a week or two. He was such a sweet and friendly cat. His name was Mochie, because he mooched off everything. Mochie was a black and white cat with yellow eyes. He was about a pound and the most "handsome" cat I've seen.

G 20b

The most important part about receiving this cat was the meaning behind it. After the attacks on September 11, 2001, I had horrible anxiety attacks and I got worried about absolutely everything. I couldn't even sleep in my own bed. I had to know that someone was with me all the time. By getting Moochie, my parents helped me out because I knew that someone was always there with me, and he was mine. Believe it or not, my anxiety just got better and better. Moochie was the reason for that.

In conclusion, these three things made this gift so special. The surprise on my birthday, the sweetness and love of Moochie, and finally, the overall presence of the cat. Now, Moochie is still feisty and sometimes scary, but if anything were to happen to him, I don't know what I would do. I do not have anxiety at all anymore, I blame Moochie.

Score Point: 5

This response reflects a strong degree of proficiency in expository writing skills. The writer's cat is selected as a favorite gift for three reasons (the surprise, the love of the cat, and the overall presence of the cat). The reasons are explained and coherently developed in this generally well-organized response. There are very few errors in conventions. More specific details describing the surprise and the cat, stronger language facility, and greater syntactic variety are needed for a higher score.